

Hetton Urban District Council.



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Health Department,

Hetton House,

Hetton-le-Hole.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Ninth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics in the Urban District of Hetton for the year 1949. Incorporated with this is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

It is to be regretted that owing to circumstances outwith the control of this department it has been found impossible to publish this report at an earlier date.

The progress of house building by direct labour by the Council continues to make satisfactory progress.

I would tender my thanks to the members of the Council and my colleagues who have at all times so loyally and willingly given assistance whenever the opportunity arose.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members

of Hetton Urban District Council.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring Urban District and Medical Superintendent of the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia.

Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Tuberculosis
Home Nursing	Child Welfare and Maternity
Domestic Helps	School Medical
Vaccination	Venereal Diseases
Immunisation against	Welfare of the aged
Diphtheria	Welfare of the blind
Health Visitors	

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—4,527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1949—18,830.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books—5,071.

Rateable Value—£64,843.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£235.22.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1949 was 338 as compared with 355 for 1948.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated populat'n
Live Births					
{	Legitimate	331	175	156	17.95
	Illegitimate	7	5	2	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 16.7 for 1949.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1949, compared with the years 1940—1948.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1940	328	160	160	17.53	98
1941	319	157	162	17.53	109
1942	367	177	190	20.80	170
1943	339	173	166	13.62	127
1944	415	213	202	23.13	237
1945	377	201	176	20.65	185
1946	365	176	189	19.24	171
1947	436	229	207	23.04	215
1948	355	172	183	19.02	148
1949	338	180	158	17.95	125

Still Births—During 1949 there were 21 still births in the district.

		Total			
		Male	Female		
Still Births	Illegitimate	1	—	1	} giving a Rate of 58.50 per 1,000 total (live & still births) births
	Legitimate	20	12	8	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 1.115 in the district as compared with 0.39 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 213 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 116 males and 97 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.31, the population being estimated at 18,830. That for England and Wales was 11.7.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1949 there were 175 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 89 males and 86 females. Of these 1 male and 2 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 88 males and 84 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 28 males and 13 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 213, being 116 males and 97 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1949, 14 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 6.57 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 41 residents who died outside the district, 2 died in a private house, 1 in Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, and 1 in an ambulance passing through Eston U.D.

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	10
Heath House, Houghton-le-Spring	...	...	5
General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	8
Havelock Hospital	...	...	1
Relton Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	2
Winterton House, Sedgefield	...	...	2
Leazes House Sanatorium, Wolsingham	...	...	1
Ryhope General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	4
Castle Hill Convalescent Home	...	...	1
Crossgate Hospital, Durham	...	...	1
Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	1
Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital	...	...	1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.)

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

The following Comparative Figures are available for England and Wales:

Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Puerperal Sepsis	...	0.11
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Other Puerperal Causes		0.71
Notifications Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia		
per 1000 total Births (live and still)		
England and Wales	...	6.31
Hetton Urban District	...	0.00

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

12 children died during 1949 before attaining the age of one year, being 6 legitimate males, and 6 legitimate females, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 35.5 per 1,000 live births.

During 1948, 18 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1940—1949.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1940	...	80.9	...	76.1	...	250.0
1941	...	59.00	...	58.64	...	83.33
1942	...	49.05	...	50.70	...	—
1943	...	62.21	...	58.61	...	133.33
1944	...	62.65	...	60.45	...	111.11
1945	...	45.09	...	41.09	...	166.66
1946	...	38.35	...	40.34	...	—
1947	...	36.69	...	35.29	...	90.90
1948	...	50.7	...	46.65	...	166.66
1949	...	35.5	...	36.25	...	—

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1949 was 32.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows:

Easington Lane	5649
Hetton	5140
Hetton Downs	5894
Rainton and Moorsley	2147
	<hr/>
	18,830
	<hr/>

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is:

Easington Lane	0.71
Hetton	0.39
Hetton Downs	0.51
Rainton and Moorsley	1.40

Of the 12 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was in 1 case due to prematurity giving a percentage of 8.33 due to this cause. 4 or 33.33 per cent. of the total deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

The following table shows in detail the number and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1949 and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz.—3 under one week, 0 between 1 and 2 weeks, 0 between 2 and 3 weeks, 1 between 3 and 4 weeks, 3 between 1 and 3 months, 4 between 3 months and 6 months, 0 between 6 months and 9 months, and 1 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 12.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 213, 5.63 per cent of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 33.33 per cent. were under one week.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'nths	3 months and under 6 m'nths	6 months and under 9 m'nths	9 months and under 12 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes {	Certified ...	3	..	..	1	4	3	4	..	1	8
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tubercular Meningitis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Convulsions ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ... ..			..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..			..	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	3
Diarrhoea ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Gastritis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malf'mat'ns ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes			2	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2
			3	1	4	3	4	..	1	8

Nett Live Births— Legitimate

Illegitimate

Corrected as per Registrar General ...	Males Females		Males Females		=	338
	175	156	5	2		
Nett Deaths ...	6	6	—	—	=	12

During 1949 there were 186 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, 8 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 6 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, 5 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest and 8 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e., Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Easington Lane	18	15	10	18	61
Hetton	23	11	22	19	75
Hetton Downs	16	20	10	6	52
Rainton & M'srley	11	5	3	6	25
Totals	68	51	45	49	213

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Easington Lane	4	...	...	1	...	6	12	16	22	61
Hetton	2	1	...	...	1	5	16	23	27	75
Hetton Downs	3	...	...	1	1	3	16	11	17	52
Rainton and Moorsley	3	...	...	...	...	1	7	7	7	25
Total	12	1	...	2	2	15	51	57	73	213

During the year under consideration there were 3 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1,000 population from this cause of 0.16.

There was 1 death from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), giving a death rate of 2.95 per 1,000 live births compared with 3.0 for England and Wales.

In 1948 there was 1 death from the chief zymotic diseases, equivalent to a death rate of 0.05 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:

No. of Deaths in Hetton Urban District												
Population 1949—18,830.												
Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs	Total		
1940	230	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		
1941	210	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	7		
1942	197	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4		
1943	212	0	0	2	0	2	3	2	3	12		
1944	178	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7		
1945	192	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	8		
1946	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		
1947	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3		
1948	207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
1949	213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3		

Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.												
Hn—Hetton Urban District; EW—England and Wales.												
All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza					
Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn
14.05	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.54	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.16	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.08	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.03	0.11
9.92	11.6	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.05
10.52	11.4	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05
10.22	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05
11.68	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
11.09	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.31	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	0.01	0.11

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1949.

Causes of Death.					Male		Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	116	...	97
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
11. Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Uterus (Female)	...	...	...	...	—	...	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	13	...	3
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	...	3
16. Cancer, all other sites	...	...	...	...	12	...	4
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	...	2
18. Intra Cranial Vasular Lesions	...	...	...	...	15	...	16
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	28	...	34
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	2	...	—
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	17	...	13
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	...	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
32. Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	3	...	—
36. All other causes	...	...	...	...	9	...	6

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1949, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000) compared with Hetton-le-Hole.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

					England & Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Hetton Urban District
					Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS—									
Live	...	...	...	...	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5	17.95
Still	...	...	...	...	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.37	1.12
DEATHS—									
All Causes	...	...	...	...	11.7	12.5	11.6	12.2	11.31
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.11
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
					Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age					32	37	30	29	35.5
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 yrs. age					3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	2.95
					Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS—									
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	1.96
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	9.13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.42
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.21
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...	...	...	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	9.19
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	2.97
					Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
(a) NOTIFICATIONS—									
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia					6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.00

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

	No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6, 148-150 Other
E. & W.	0.11	0.05	0.11	0.71
Hetton U.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ABORTION: Mortality per million Women aged 15-45

England and Wales:

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
8	4

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1949, being equivalent to a death rate per 1,000 population, of 0.27 from the pulmonary form and 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1940	13	Not available	.70	3	Not available	.16
1941	7	.601	.38	0	.127	.00
1942	10	Not available	.56	3	Not available	.17
1943	9	.557	.51	4	.111	.22
1944	9	.524	.50	2	.103	.11
1945	6	.519	.32	1	.100	.05
1946	13	Not available	.68	1	Not available	.05
1947	11	.470	.58	3	.079	.15
1948	7	.440	.38	1	.067	.05
1949	5	.403	.27	0	.054	.00

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area. 62 persons, being 28 males and 34 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 29.11 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.29 per 1,000 population.

Unfortunately heart disease is very frequently caused by rheumatism or St. Vitus dance, whilst in other cases the heart may be damaged following pneumonia. The importance of care and supervision after these illnesses cannot be sufficiently stressed.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1940	230	42	20	22	12.33	2.25	18.26
1941	210	43	20	23	11.55	2.31	20.48
1942	197	33	19	14	11.16	1.87	16.77
1943	212	42	20	22	12.08	2.4	19.81
1944	178	34	20	14	9.92	1.89	17.1
1945	192	41	24	17	10.52	2.24	21.35
1946	194	56	27	29	10.22	2.95	28.86
1947	221	63	31	32	11.68	3.32	28.50
1948	207	57	32	25	11.09	3.05	27.53
1949	213	62	28	34	11.31	3.29	29.11

Cancer.

39 deaths—being 26 males and 13 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 18.31 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 2.07 per 1,000 population, compared with 1.87 for England and Wales.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1940—1949.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female		Total	
1940	15	...	17	...	32	1.71
1941	14	...	11	...	25	1.37
1942	14	...	13	...	27	1.53
1943	11	...	19	...	30	1.70
1944	12	...	10	...	22	1.22
1945	15	...	18	...	33	1.80
1946	13	...	9	...	22	1.15
1947	17	...	11	...	28	1.47
1948	15	...	19	...	34	1.82
1949	26	...	13	...	39	2.07

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1949 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.	Males—Ages.	Site.	Females—Ages.
Colon—	74, 76, 39, 60, 49.	Breast—	50, 44, 66, 75.
Stomach—	63, 77, 66, 52, 43, 66, 70.	Ovaries—	66.
	62, 84, 59, 72, 71, 43.	Stomach—	59, 90.
Rectum—	80.	Colon—	70.
Oesophagus—	58.	Cervix—	64.
Bowel—	69.	Heart—	75.
Bronchus—	54, 43.	Uterus—	80, 74.
Buttock—	72.	Lung—	59.
Neckglands—	75.		
Generalised—	48.		

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(see commencement of this report.)

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July, 1948, made a certain difference in the administration of Health Services in County Districts. The chief points so far as this area is concerned are the transfer of (a) the Isolation Hospital to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, (b) the ambulance service to the County Council as the Local Health Authority, (c) the entire responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. The County Council are also now responsible for the provision of nursing in the home. District nurses are employed by the County Council, but there is a very close liaison between the old County Nursing Association and the County Council in providing this service.

Ambulance Facilities.

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton-le-Spring, West Rainton, and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. Despite minor initial difficulties the Service has worked comparatively smoothly. One of the major difficulties has been the gross deterioration of many of the vehicles which the County took over and which from the beginning were unroadworthy and entirely incapable of being made so at anything like a reasonable cost, thus reducing the number available throughout the County considerably below that originally anticipated and throwing more work on those which could be used. Despite this the number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month. The increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation of children under five years of age has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1st January, 1946, and from that date the work was done under the auspices of the County District Councils, the County Council paying the cost thereof. The County District Councils remained responsible for the treatment of the 5-15 years group until 5th July, 1948, when that also passed to the County Council.

Whilst appreciating that this change was necessary we feel that some of the local enthusiasm has been lost and that there is probably increased apathy on the part of the public who know that diphtheria is not so common as ten years ago and that deaths therefrom are not so numerous. This can be maintained only by having a large number, preferably at least 75 per cent., of the children under 15 years properly protected. Statistics are no longer available to the County or County District Councils as to the total number treated since the general practitioners who are doing a large part of the work, which they feel is outside their contract as family doctors, are receiving no payment for the work and are not submitting returns, owing to there being no agreement as to fees with the Ministry of Health.

A considerable amount of periodical propaganda is necessary, more especially in the case of school children who have not been previously treated, and emphasising the importance of a reinforcing dose where a child has had previous treatment.

Vaccination has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through its "Public Vaccinators." Previous to 5th July, 1948, there was an exact record of the work done. Vaccination is no longer compulsory and, as in the case of diphtheria immunisation for similar reasons, the family doctors are making no returns and it is quite impossible to gauge the total numbers being protected against smallpox and the effect of making vaccination voluntary on the vaccinal condition of the population of the country.

Nursing in the Home.

This is now available to all who are in need and the Nurses who served this area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association have continued in their work.

Maternity and Midwifery.

The Nurses formerly employed by the County Council for this work are continuing with same, although perhaps more frequently as Maternity nurses than Midwives than formerly, since these services and that of the medical practitioners is now free. It is the intention of the National Health Service Act that there should be local panels of medical practitioners with special experience in midwifery who should do this work, but in this area the family doctors have all already had a very considerable experience over many years.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

As formerly these continue to be administered by the County Council, the centre remaining at Hetton. Steps are being taken to separate the care of the Mothers from that of the Children and the Assistant County Child Welfare Medical Officers are being diverted according to their inclinations, to the type of work they prefer doing—children or mothers—aiming at specialisation in one of these branches.

School Medical Clinics.

These are as formerly all operated by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Clinics

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Domestic Helps.

Women who are suitable and willing are employed by the County Council as domestic helps who are sent out to give domestic assistance when a request for same is made and proved to be necessary in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged. Charge for this assistance is based on income and, if necessary, may be free. Requests for such assistance may be made to the County Medical Officer either direct or through the local Health Department.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1949 some 565 cases of infectious diseases, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows an increase on the figure for 1948—which was 488. There were 173 cases of measles and 172 whooping cough, as compared with 251 measles and 11 whooping cough in 1948.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 37 cases of Scarlet Fever in the district compared with 119 in 1948. Of these 25 were isolated in hospital.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The case incidence for the district is 1.96 per 1000 population, and that for England and Wales being 1.63.

The case incidence for the various wards is 2.92 Hetton, 1.87 Hetton Downs, 1.77 Easington Lane, and 0.47 for Moorsley and Rainton, each per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were 8 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1949 as compared with 6 cases in 1948. All cases were removed to hospital. Anti-toxin is available by day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Hetton House, Hetton-le-Hole.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.42 as compared with 0.04 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the wards was: Hetton 0.39, Hetton Downs 0.85, Easington Lane 0.18, Moorsley and Rainton nil.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

2 of the 8 cases of diphtheria had been previously immunised, 1 in 1942 and 1 in 1944. Neither had had a reinforcing dose.

From the records available, 92 children under 5 years of age and 41 between 5 and 15 years were immunised and 49 were given a reinforcing injection during 1949.

At the end of 1949 approximately 416 or 24.67 per cent. of the child population under 5 years and 2,133 or 69.81 per cent. of those between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised.

It is extremely desirable that 75% of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under 5 years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics but parents still have the option of having their children who are under five immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

Influenza.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on the whole of a mild character. 2 deaths were certified as being due to this cause.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1949. In 1949 there were 173 cases of measles and 172 cases of whooping cough notified as against 251 measles and 11 whooping cough in 1948.

During the year no deaths were ascribed to whooping cough or measles.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infections have been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school, especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed a decrease, there being 56 cases notified during 1949 as against 60 in 1948. The number of cases of erysipelas notified showed a decrease, there being 4 cases notified in 1949 as against 16 in 1948. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

There were 6 deaths directly due to pneumonia and some in which it was a contributory cause.

Infantile Paralysis.

During the year 1949, no cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during year 1949.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1949.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	37	25	...
Diphtheria	...	..	...	8	8	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	56	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	...	2	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	93	4	...
Measles	...	...	...	173	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	172	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	546	38	6

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1949 — Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.	
	At Ages—Years												Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington L.	M'sley & R'ton	Total			
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over								
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	2	4	17	9	2	1	...	...	...	37	15	11	10	1	37	25	1.96
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	5	1	...	8	8	0.42
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	5	7	3	3	6	...	4	5	1	6	5	56	13	21	17	5	56	...	2.97
Erysipelae	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	4	1	1	1	...	4	...	0.21
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	2	10	2	1	6	1	10	...	0.53
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	...	7	3	...	4	...	7	...	0.35
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	0.05
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	2	...	0.05
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	0.11
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	0.05
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	4	6	7	4	6	13	4	5	16	6	11	11	93	9	6	78	...	93	4	4.94
Measles	16	15	24	22	28	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	173	68	57	33	15	173	...	9.19
Whooping Cough	19	15	30	28	24	55	1	...	...	...	...	...	172	78	44	47	3	172	...	9.13
Totals	52	42	69	59	66	164	16	12	31	13	21	20	565	194	147	198	26	565	38	30.01

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterley Returns. Those for Hetton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Hetton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards			
				Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	Moorsley & Rainton
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.83	1.96	2.92	1.87	1.77	0.47
Diphtheria	0.04	0.04	0.42	0.39	0.85	0.18	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.18	0.47
Pneumonia	0.80	0.65	2.97	2.53	3.56	3.01	2.33
Measles	8.95	9.18	9.19	13.23	9.67	5.84	6.99
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.39	9.13	15.18	7.47	8.32	1.40

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1949 under the Public Health Act (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1949.

17 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 10 males and 7 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 1 male and 1 female. In 1948 there were 16 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 7 males and 9 females, and 3 cases of non-pulmonary forms, being 2 males and 1 female, notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1949 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hetton ...	2	3	—	—	5
Hetton Downs	1	—	1	—	2
Eas. Lane ...	6	4	—	1	11
Moorsley & Rainton	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	10	7	1	1	19

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	„	...	1	5	—	1	—	1	—	—
25—35	„	...	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45	„	...	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—65	„	...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	„	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		10	7	1	1	2	3	—	—

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1940-49, inclusive.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis						Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis						Total All Forms	
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total		
1940	7	7	14	3	6	9	3	6	9	3	6	9	23	
1941	11	10	21	8	4	12	8	4	12	8	4	12	33	
1942	8	5	13	3	5	8	3	5	8	3	5	8	21	
1943	12	9	21	5	8	13	5	8	13	5	8	13	34	
1944	6	9	15	4	6	10	4	6	10	4	6	10	25	
1945	9	4	13	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	18	
1946	12	14	26	4	3	7	4	3	7	4	3	7	33	
1947	9	10	19	2	5	7	2	5	7	2	5	7	26	
1948	7	9	16	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	19	
1949	10	7	17	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	19	

Occupation.

Amongst the non-pulmonary cases 1 was a nurse and 1 a miner.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 6 were miners, 4 housewives, 1 clerk, 1 shop assistant and 5 occupation unknown.

Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

1 Peritoneum, 1 bowel.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County Authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

Housing and Tuberculosis.

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Hetton Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

In many areas of the country a marked increase has been noticed in the cases of tuberculosis in children comparing the years 1938 and 1949, but the reverse is the position here. There has been an explanation of the increase given in various instances, ascribing it to overcrowding and bad housing conditions.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The estimated population served by the water undertaking was 18,270, the supply in all cases being direct to the house from a public water main, and the average daily consumption was approximately 20 gallons per head.

The Urban District is supplied with water from four sources, the principal source of supply being the Council's water undertaking which normally serves the whole of the Hetton Downs, Hetton and Easington Lane Wards. To maintain an adequate supply for all consumers it has been necessary in past years to take a supplementary supply from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and this has increased considerably, as during the year it was necessary to take 38,798,000 gallons, an increase of 13,000,000 gallons on the previous year's consumption. So far as the Council's own undertaking was concerned the delivery from the main source, Eppleton Colliery, amounted to 124,375,000 gallons. This overall increasing consumption is no doubt due to the erection of new houses by the Council and the effect of privy conversions which were carried out.

It may be said that the quality of the water supply during the year was generally satisfactory. Samples were submitted for chemical analysis every two months and the results indicated that the water was very pure organically with a pH value of 7.6, a total hardness of 65/66° and a permanent hardness of 37/39°. In addition 16 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and in general the results were either "satisfactory" or "very satisfactory." As might be expected during the months of August and September, very high counts of *b. coli* were prevalent and chlorination was accordingly increased. A thorough investigation was carried out, and it was presumed that the infection arose as a result of the ploughing and manuring of a field immediately adjacent the Eppleton reservoir (which is uncovered) and as a result of the abnormally dry summer, and a period of high winds, dust contaminated the water in the reservoir. Bacteriological examination of the "raw" water as obtained from the source showed no signs of contamination.

Chloramine treatment of all water was carried out as a matter of routine and the plant maintained in sound working order during the years.

New mains were laid to 60 Houses at Low Moorsley, 24 Houses on the Murton Lane Site and 10 Houses for Caroline Street.

The hydrautomat was completely overhauled and renewed, and the undertaking as a whole was maintained in an efficient condition throughout the year.

The Moorsley district is supplied by the National Coal Board with spring water which is collected in a reservoir situated at Low Moorsley, and pumped from there to a reservoir at High Moorsley to obtain a sufficient

head. This supply is very wholesome and abundant, it having been possible to supply the new housing site at Low Moorsley from this source. It is, owing to the fact that it is collected from springs at surface level, rather susceptible to contamination, but it is kept under constant observation, and samples are taken weekly by the staff of the Health Department, and the Coal Board's Chemists also take samples, any variation in purity are therefore quickly noted and dealt with. The supply and the mains are however, in generally good condition and the method of chlorination used is effective. The results of samples indicated that the water was consistently pure and a satisfactory supply was available throughout the year. The spring at High Moorsley which was in the past used by householders when the main supply failed is also frequently sampled as this forms a check on the main supply, and despite the fact that the collecting chamber is frequently fouled, the water was found to be invariably pure and wholesome.

The Rainton Ward is supplied by water from the Durham County Water Board's mains. This water is much softer than the local water and has given rise to few complaints although seasonal variations in purity were noted from time to time, which were dealt with by the flushing of the mains affected. It was found however, that certain of the high portions of the Council's housing estate at East Rainton were not getting an adequate supply. This had been a long standing complaint and a deputation from the Council met the Water Board to discuss the matter. It was said that to obtain a satisfactory supply here it would be necessary to embark upon an elaborate and expensive scheme for the diversion of mains and the erection of a water tower, but following the repair of the booster pump at East Rainton no further cause for complaint has arisen.

A small group of houses at Rainton Bridge obtains its supply from spring water which was piped through to them from a collecting chamber in an adjacent field. This supply was subject to contamination from time to time and was therefore kept under observation and periodically sampled. The houses were, however, during the year provided with a pipe supply from the Durham County Water Board's mains. Certain outlying farms also have independent supplies which are maintained by the National Coal Board. These supplies are periodically sampled and the results obtained are generally satisfactory.

All samples taken for bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle. The examinations are made free of charge, and the cost of sampling is considerably reduced making it possible to take samples from supplies throughout the area at least once monthly, and more frequently if the water is suspect. Samples for chemical analysis are taken at least every three months, the examinations being made by the Council's analyst, W. G. Carey, Esq. The number of samples submitted by the Health Department during the year for bacteriological examination totalled 88, 20 of which were found to be below standard, and in addition 4 samples for chemical examination were also taken. The number of samples taken is considerably in excess of the figure for the previous years, the increase being due to some extent to investigations made into an outbreak of dysentery in the Easington Lane Ward which was not however, found to be due to any contamination of the water supply. These figures do not include samples beforementioned taken by the Surveyor's Department from the Council's own undertaking or samples taken by the National Coal Board's chemist from those portions of the supply for which they are responsible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewers throughout the district, with one exception, all drain to the Glebe Sewage Works at Rainton Bridge. The installation here is of apparently modern structure as the works were completed in 1937, and it continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Low Downs outfall sewer which had been affected for some years by subsidence was relaid in 15 in. concrete tubes and a number of branch sewers in streets in the Low Downs area, where privy conversions were being carried out, were also relaid. In connection with new housing developments soil and surface water sewers were laid to 76 Houses on the Low Downs Estate, 24 Houses at Murton Lane and 10 Houses at Caroline Street.

The sewers were given two rodent control maintenance treatments during the year and the take of poison bait indicated that this resulted in the destruction of a large number of rats.

It may now be said that sewers in the Hetton Downs area are in a reasonably satisfactory condition, which is gratifying having regard to the fact that the sewerage system here has been sub-standard for many years. This was largely owing to faults in the sewers due to subsidence, and also to unmade streets, much silting up of the pipes occurred. A great proportion of the silt was found to be coal dust washed down owing to the prevalent custom of dumping loads of workmen's coal on the street.

Wherever privy conversions have been carried out the sewers have at the same time been overhauled where necessary and there is no doubt that the additional flushing and scouring which the water carriage system will give them should assist in maintaining the branch sewers in a satisfactory working condition.

The Health Department during the year, drew attention to the serious nuisance which arose from sewage coming from Eppleton Colliery and the houses, offices, etc., adjoining. This sewage was only piped a short distance and then discharged into an open ditch, which was offensive and also, unfortunately, an attraction to children. A deputation met the National Coal Board officials with regard to this, and whilst it was found that the contours prohibited piping the sewage to connect with the Council's sewers it was agreed to install a treatment tank which would ensure that the effluent is comparatively innocuous.

The village of Middle Rainton is not sewered to the Council's Sewage Farm, the only sewer now in use here being piped across the fields and eventually discharging into a ditch adjacent to the Meadows Colliery. Some of the remaining houses in the village have water closets, but despite the simplicity of the system it gave rise to few complaints during 1949.

During 1949 it was necessary to serve 23 informal notices with respect to defects in house drainage and these were all complied with more or less promptly, it not being necessary in any case to issue a Statutory Notice. It was also necessary to serve 9 informal notices in respect to defects to water closets and in one case to follow an informal notice by a Statutory Notice, 7 of these had been complied with at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1949 the numbers of each type of convenience in use in the Urban district were as follows:—

Water-closets	...	...	...	...	4,866
Ash-closets	...	...	...	...	731
Ash-pit Privies	...	...	...	...	17

Further progress was made with privy conversions and 197 ash-closets were converted into water-closets, and 6 ash-closets were demolished in conjunction with the houses which they served in slum clearance areas. Of the privy conversions carried out, 171 were dealt with by the Council's Contractors and 26 were carried out by owners, generally owner occupiers, to whom a grant was made by the Council towards the cost, this grant being equivalent to one half the cost of similar conversions carried out directly by the Council. So far as conversions carried out directly by the Council are concerned, two types of conversion were executed, firstly, where the existing house drainage made it necessary, a new drain was constructed direct from the closet to the sewer, and a special type of basin with an inlet to facilitate cleaning the drain was installed. This type was invariably installed in streets of Colliery houses where it was found that one drain, generally in an inaccessible position under the party wall, served two houses. The average cost of this type of conversion amounted to £16 4s. 8d. In the second type of conversion an inspection chamber was constructed on the line of the existing house drain and the water-closet connected into this, and the average cost of this type of conversion amounted to £17 7s. 6d. The majority of conversions carried out during the year were at properties owned by the National Coal Board and the completion of the work will make it possible for progress to be made with the making up of streets and footpaths, in fact in a few cases the Coal Board have already carried out some work of this nature in conjunction with the conversions, and they were very helpful in carrying out repairs to existing closet buildings where the Department considered the structure was unsatisfactory.

Conversions are carried out to a stringent specification, particular care being paid to the protection of water pipes from frost and complaints and maintenance work have been negligible. Progress was made during the year with a further scheme of 400 conversions of which those above-mentioned were the first instalment, and when this scheme is completed ash-closets in the area will be practically eliminated, those left being in isolated places remote from the sewer or attached to houses which, it is hoped, will be demolished in the near future under Slum Clearance Orders.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

All house refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and a fleet of 5 motor lorries are in use for the purpose, 15 men being employed with these. An additional lorry is available for use in abnormal periods or when breakdowns occur. The vehicles are in good mechanical condition, 4 of them being less than two years old, and the 2 others, one a Karrier Bantam purchased in 1943, and the other a Bedford purchased in 1939, are well maintained. In addition to the direct labour staff it is also necessary to hire a horse and cart, which is engaged for an average period of 21 hours per week in dealing with isolated or inaccessible ash-closets which it would not be possible to cleanse with a motor vehicle.

Maintenance work is carried out at the Depot by the mechanic who deals with all repair work necessary and also carries out bodywork repair and re-painting, as it is very difficult to get this type of work done by outside firms in a reasonable time.

The number of premises which were being dealt with by the Scavenging Department at the end of 1949 was 5,913, and the approximate average cost per house per annum was £1,402. The number of premises to be dealt with has steadily risen in the post war years owing to the rapid progress in building Council houses, this has thrown a considerable amount of extra work on the service which had been dealt with without further increase in staff or plant, despite the fact that the layout of the Council housing sites at present under construction makes it necessary to carry bins for a considerably increased distance, with often a number of steps to cope with, and furthermore, it is found that despite electric cooking facilities, and, in the majority of cases, the diminished number of fireplaces in the houses, the same quantity of ash is being put out by the tenants, necessitating, particularly in the winter time, two visits per week. The time will arise in the near future when additions to the service will be necessary to meet this additional work. During 1949 however, as labour and overhead charges remained more or less stationary it was possible to maintain the scavenging costs at a very reasonable figure.

All the refuse is disposed of by tipping, which is controlled where the situation and the supply of soil available makes this possible. The tips in use are situated at the Hazard Colliery, Bulwells, the Gill, and the Brickies, Lyons Colliery, the latter tip is in an old quarry which has become filled with water and is a source of danger. It makes an ideal tip and some very useful land will be re-claimed when it is completed. The other tips present difficulties in contour, and it is necessary to review tipping procedure from time to time, in order to avoid a steep face, which constitutes a danger from fire. Every effort is made to tip in shallow layers to obviate this risk, and little trouble was experienced in this respect during the year under review. The greatest nuisance experienced on the tips was the promiscuous dumping of refuse by unauthorised persons, generally builders, who left this in heaps on the surface without attempting to level. Despite warning notices, this practice is prevalent, and difficult to check as we do not, on the grounds of economy, employ a man full-time on the refuse tips. A percentage of the refuse is utilised by farmers for re-claiming land and making good damage caused by colliery subsidence. This demand is likely to continue in the future although the refuse has now little manurial value.

A minor problem was caused by the cessation of the salvage scheme in the Spring of 1949, this became necessary owing to materials collected being unmarketable, and it meant that large quantities of trade refuse which had been collected as salvage had now to be dealt with as trade refuse. All shopkeepers in the district were communicated with and given the opportunity of having this removed by the Council's staff for a small weekly charge, they were alternatively asked to dispose of the refuse themselves and warned with regard to the promiscuous dumping of it. A minority of the shopkeepers availed themselves of the Council's offer and are paying for the collection of the refuse, the remainder are disposing of their trade refuse themselves principally by burning and there had been little cause for complaint despite the fact that owing to the relaxing of economic restrictions non-returnable empties are steadily increasing in the shops.

The scheme for the renewal of ashbins which has been in force since 1946 was continued during the year despite difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies of suitable ashbins and the excessive cost thereof. 90 ashbins were supplied to householders during the year, these being sold at 16/- each, this price, whilst still being below the cost of a similar article in the shops, allowing a small margin of profit to the Council to cover handling and administrative expenses. The scheme works well and is appreciated by the public, it moreover ensures that a standard type of receptacle is used throughout the district. The next step, and this should be feasible when conversions are completed and all ash-pits and ash-closets in the area are abolished, would be to make the provision of ashbins a rate charge and the renewal of the defective bin would then be carried out as a matter of routine.

Salvage and Waste Materials.

The year under review saw the end of the organisation for the collection of salvage. This work had been carried out since the beginning of the War and resulted in much useful material being re-claimed which provided a source of income to cover the cost of collection and disposal, and having regard to the fact that much of the material collected would in any case have had to be dealt with as household refuse the scheme was an economic proposition. One vehicle was solely devoted to this work, this being implemented by a driver and three youths, one of the latter assisting with collections and the two others sorting and packing materials. A separate collection was made from dwelling-houses and shops and the collections were not confined to materials defined by Government Orders, e.g. waste tins were collected, and formed a very useful proportion of the revenue from the scheme.

Obviously with only one vehicle employed it was not always possible to make a complete round of the district within a reasonable period. The amount of salvage collected from the average dwelling house was generally very small, but naturally householders disliked storing materials of this nature on their premises and collections had to be frequent or material was wasted. The help of the schools was enlisted for collection of paper, and saving stamps to the value of 3/- was paid for every cwt. of paper collected. A very useful contribution was made in this direction, although some schools did not display the interest in the scheme which was evident during the war-time years.

By May of the year under review the scheme was moribund owing to the fact that materials, particularly paper, were unmarketable. The appropriate Government Departments were approached with a view to finding an outlet for accumulations, but were unable to help, the position being general, and many tons of baled paper were held in store without hope of sale. The Council therefore decided to cease the work and the staff was dispersed. The vehicle in use was on loan from the Home Office and as they called it in, this to some extent precipitated the decision. It was not possible to market the accumulated material until March of 1950, and then the price obtained for it was uneconomic.

Despite the short period in which collection took place in 1949, £364 6s. 8d. was realised from the sale of materials, the total operational cost for the collection and disposal of this being £499 13s. 3d. or a debit of £135 6s. 7d., which compares with a debit for the whole of the year's working of 1948 of £7 11s. 8d.

**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during the year 1949.**

I. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions		1	...	1
and		Structural Def'ts		116	60	35
Schools		Overcrowding		3	...	3
Lodging-houses		...		...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops		...		5	...	5
Cowsheds		...		27	...	27
Bakehouses		...		4	...	4
Slaughter houses		...		1	...	1
Ashpits and Privies		...		6	428	177
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...		7	...	7
Water Closets		...		9	1	7
Defective Yard Paving		...		3	1	1
		Defective Traps		9	...	9
House	}	No disconnection		...	...	...
Drainage		from sewers		...	...	...
		Other Faults		14	...	13
Water Supply		...		2	...	2
Smoke Nuisances		...		...	...	...
Other Nuisances (Pigsties and animals improperly kept)		...		9	...	9
Defective Spouts		...		7	4	3
Provision of Dust Bins		...		90	...	90
Provision of Scullery Sinks		...		9	...	9
Totals	...	...		322	494	403

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... 88 Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... 20 Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... 93 Milk } Samples found Adulterated ... 6 Ice Cr }		For advisory purposes only
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... 45 Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... 44 Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...		60 houses treated for beetles, etc.
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year 132 Number of such Houses occupied during year 132 Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ... Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets ... Ash-closets converted into Water-closets 197 Total number of Water-closets in District 4866 Total number of Ash-closets in District... 731 Total number of Ashpit-privies in District 17		6 ashclosets demolished

Income from the various sources is shown on the table hereunder.

	£	s.	d.
From the sale of paper and cardboard ...	297	11	6
From the sale of rags and matting ...	8	2	6
From the sale of scrap metal and tins ...	39	13	10½
From the sale of bottles and jars ...	10	0	8½
From the sale of bones	7	18	1
From the sale of baling wire	2	0	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£364	6	8

Housing.

During the year under review continued good progress was made with the provision of new houses, 132 houses being erected and occupied during the year, and an additional number were in an advanced state of construction. The erection of these was undertaken by the Direct Labour Building Staff. Further extensions of the housing scheme was considered and type plans and layouts adopted in order that the building programme might make continuous progress during 1950.

The accelerated progress in providing new houses brought to light difficulties met with in satisfactorily allocating those becoming ready for occupation, and it became obvious that a revision of the housing application lists was desirable, with a view to the elimination of applicants who no longer required houses, or were, for some reason, now ineligible. As a result, early in 1949, all applicants appearing on the list were asked to attend at the Council offices, and were personally interviewed, it being assumed that those who did not attend no longer required houses. The result of the interview and the pruning of the housing lists, gave a more or less true picture of the current housing needs. This was presented in a report by the Clerk of the Council, in May, 1949.

The investigation disclosed the following facts:—

Number of applications 896

Which could be divided into the undermentioned categories, namely:—

(a) Sub-tenants living in 276
 (b) Occupiers of slum and sub-standard houses 311
 (c) Applicants suitably housed at present ... 309

It becomes apparent therefore that categories (a) and (b) comprise applicants who have immediate need for alternative accommodation but in the case of class (b) this number would be considerably increased if a comprehensive slum clearance programme was put in hand, as there are quite a number of persons occupying this type of property who have not made application for a house, but who would have to be rehoused. Class (c) have no immediate need, although it must be admitted that the type of house they occupy is generally lacking in modern amenities, but if and when they are re-housed the accommodation they leave would be available for another tenant.

Actual housing needs therefore seem to be:

(a) Sub-tenants living in	...	...	...	276
(b) Slum Clearance requirements	...	...	...	422
(c) Provision for individual unfit houses, Closing Orders, etc.	...	...	...	102
				<hr/>
Total				800
				<hr/>

It is anticipated that this figure not only represents current needs, but should make provision for any contingency which may arise for some years, particularly if the fullest use is made of accommodation already available in the district. There is no doubt that by building smaller houses to accommodate aged couples who are at present occupying houses too large for their needs, a good number of houses would be made available for occupation by families. Furthermore the arrangement or enforcement of exchanges between tenants who are occupying houses too small for their families, and others who are occupying large houses, but have small families, would considerably ease the position. This has been attempted from time to time but a comprehensive exchange has never been enforced. There is without a doubt a hard core of tenants occupying houses too small for their needs who are quite prepared to put up with the overcrowding and inconvenience for the sake of cheaper rent, furthermore, and this attitude is to some extent justified, tenants are reluctant to leave a clean house and enter one which is neglected and dirty, and which they are put to considerable expense to re-decorate. A small house which has been occupied by a large family is almost invariably in this state. It would, however, seem advisable to give the tenants of the existing housing schemes the opportunity of exchanging into the newer higher rented type of house if they so desire, this would ensure that the houses were tenanted by people who could meet the rent, treat the house as it should be treated, and satisfactorily cultivate the garden. Such an arrangement would make available a pool of the older cheaper type of house, for letting to the lower income groups, who display the understandable reluctance to shoulder the burden of the rent of the current type of house, for it must be realised that the type of tenant who, pre-war, we considered to be very suitable, as they were in steady employment, e.g. bus drivers and conductors, postmen, building trade employees, and many of the Council's own regular employees, would find difficulty in meeting current rents out of their wages. This attitude towards rentals is not quite understandable to one who has experience of wages, living costs, and rentals ruling in the towns. The rent of our current houses, whilst high by local standards, are low compared to those ruling in the towns, and gladly paid by workers in the lower income groups, who are, moreover, faced with excessive travelling expenses in getting to and from their work. One sometimes feels that in a large section of the local community anything spent on rent, over and above the 5/- rent allowance made to the miner, is considered to be wasted money, and therefore, despite high wages and family allowances, and despite also the very great amenities and improved environment provided by the modern houses, many new tenants who are well able to afford the rent, seize the first opportunity to change into a cheaper house, often into the "free" colliery house with its complete lack of modern conveniences. It is found also that applicants display reluctance to take a house which is larger than their

immediate requirements, and the A/2 house is therefore in much greater demand than the A/3, and the trend of the modern family seems to indicate that this demand will continue. One important factor governing this, is of course, that a large number of applicants rarely have sufficient effects and floor covering to furnish the house, and the cost of these is at present prohibitive to the majority. There is no doubt that rentals will present a problem in the future if wages fall and unemployment increases.

Owing to the current housing position there is a great demand for every slum clearance house which is vacated, and the Department is inundated with requests from young couples for permission to take over the accommodation, in some cases applicants have even expressed their willingness to buy the property and do their best to re-condition it. All these applications are dealt with by the Health Committee on their merits. Experience has shown however, that whilst this type of applicant is only too anxious to get into the property they soon realise its drawbacks, and put forward the conditions under which they are living as a lever to obtain priority for a Council house, in fact, one suspects that this is the motive behind many of these applications. It is only fair to say, however, that one has knowledge of a number of young couples who have got into this type of property by permission, and who have made themselves very comfortable, and are not pressing for other accommodation. During the year under review very few applications were granted and it was generally decided to immediately demolish the houses to prevent occupation by squatters. Some trouble was experienced in this direction but was promptly dealt with, in only one case was it necessary to obtain a Court Order for the eviction of the squatter, this occurring in the Shaw's Row Clearance Area, which the Council workmen were at that time engaged in clearing up.

At the end of the year however, there was still a good number of families living in houses which were subject to slum clearance action taken before the war. It is true that some of these were undesirable tenants for whom special provision will have to be made. A great effort was made during the year to tidy up the existing slum clearance areas and a good number of derelict and dangerous buildings were demolished and the sites cleared, the majority of this work being undertaken by the Council's workmen by arrangement with the owners. Good progress was made in this respect with the Moorsley Compulsory Purchase Area, and with the exception of two houses which were still occupied this site was cleared ready for re-development. The Council decided to deal with a good number of sub-standard houses by the making of Demolition Orders. This decision was made, not with the intention of immediately re-housing the tenant and demolishing the property, but owing to the necessity of having some control over the future use of this type of property if and when it became vacant. It was found that when vacant possession occurred some owners were seizing the opportunity to dispose of sub-standard, worn out houses at exorbitant prices, generally to young couples in dire need of accommodation, who will, in the very near future lose their investment. Consideration was given to the early development of the Brickgarth Area, and the majority of the demolition orders made were in connection with this, it being considered desirable to systematically clear this area out, row by row, and re-develop as soon as possible on the vacated sites. Demolition Orders were made with regard to 55 houses.

It was possible during the year to abate a good number of cases of overcrowding, as in almost every case where sub-tenants were provided with other accommodation, overcrowding was relieved. It is possible

to say that true overcrowding is on the decrease, but created overcrowding due to the marriage of young couples who go to live with one or other of their parents, is continually arising, and this is the cause of most of the overcrowding recorded, particularly in the Council's housing schemes. It also results, in many cases, in undue wear and tear of the property, and will in time to come necessitate the execution of expensive repairs.

It was possible to systematically inspect a large number of houses during the year and informal notices were served under the Public Health or Housing Acts requiring necessary repairs. It was found necessary in 4 cases to follow these up with statutory notices, owners carrying out the work in 3 cases, and with regard to the remaining house the Council carried out the work in default of the owner under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1949.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	310
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	694
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	55
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	114
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	55
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	223

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	156
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	4
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(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	25
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	55
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV — Overcrowding :

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	36
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	153
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	482
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	46
(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	66
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	291
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

The Shops Act.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Shops Act, and shop premises throughout the district are frequently inspected, visits for this purpose generally coincide with visits for the inspection of food stuffs.

No infringements of the Orders governing closing hours, and therefore, working hours of the assistants were observed during the period under review, nor were any complaints received with regard to this. It is generally found, that shopkeepers have almost without exception, adopted as standard the curtailed hours ruling in war-time, and labour difficulties, together with the still prevalent short supply of goods have caused shopkeepers to observe even shorter opening hours than those prescribed by the Orders. This, no doubt, operates to the benefit of the assistants, but the convenience of the shopping public appears to have become a matter of secondary importance, particularly with regard to protracted mid-day lunch hour closing.

The area has a very large proportion of small shops with house attached in which the proprietor lives, the number of assistants employed on these premises is small, in many cases only one, and therefore little difficulty is experienced regarding sanitary accommodation, heating, washing facilities and other amenities for the well-being of the persons engaged in or about the premises. The larger shops all have sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and rest room accommodation for their staffs, and during the year an effort was made to obtain the installation of a constant hot water supply. The majority have now complied with this requirement.

It was necessary during the year to serve 14 informal notices requiring improvements in sanitary accommodation, etc., at shop premises and these were all complied with.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Camping Sites.

For many years the district has been clear of tents, vans and sheds used for dwelling purposes, and whilst in the past there have been attempts from time to time, to establish these, no difficulty in this respect was experienced in 1949, nor are there any sites habitually used for camping.

Certain sites were from time to time utilised by showmen as fairgrounds, such sites are supervised during the time of their occupation and arrangements made for water supply, sanitary accommodation, and scavenging. No complaints arose from the use of the land for this purpose and the sites were always left tidy and in a sanitary condition.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Urban area does not possess a public or privately owned swimming bath or pool. There is a great demand for such an amenity which, owing to the prevalent climatic conditions in the North, would preferably be a covered swimming bath, which could, on occasion, be converted for use as a public hall, and thus prove a source of income. It was hoped, before the war, to make some progress with the provision of such a swimming bath but the scheme did not bear fruit. There are however, certain parts of the district where the natural contours would make it possible to construct an open air pool at comparatively small expense, and from

time to time the pool at Lyons Colliery, which was at one time maintained by the local Boys' Club, is used in fine weather by swimmers. This use is unfortunately unsupervised and samples of water taken from the pool indicate that unless it was cleansed and properly maintained, its use for this purpose should be prohibited.

Schools

Schools throughout the area are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition and it may safely be said that sanitary conditions found, when inspections were carried out, were of a very high standard. It was not necessary during the year to close any school owing to the incidence of infectious diseases, and the Department is indebted to teachers for their co-operation at all times when enquiries regarding infectious diseases and scabies were necessary.

Public Houses, Halls and Cinemas.

These premises are systematically inspected and, as is necessary in the majority of cases, certificates as to the sanitary conditions found were issued for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions.

Three Public Houses were the subject of informal negotiations between the Department and the Brewers, as a result of which the domestic accommodation was improved, bathrooms and hot water supply being installed and the sanitary conveniences brought up to date.

Food Inspection.

Slaughter houses are still licensed annually and the number on the register at the end of 1949 was 15. In the same period the number of slaughtermen holding licences was 45. Since centralised slaughtering was imposed in 1940, the local slaughter houses have of course fallen into disuse and, therefore, apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs which were killed on licence by farmers or smallholders for their own consumption, and isolated cases of casualties which had to be slaughtered immediately, no food animals were slaughtered in the district. The slaughter houses are, however, still regularly inspected and generally maintained in a cleanly condition.

The Council were concerned regarding the quality and condition of meat sent into the district and approached the Ministry of Food regarding the possibility of utilising premises in the Urban Area for centralised slaughter, but were informed that at the present time this could not be done, although the Ministry were prepared to consider the use of new premises, if a suitable site could be found. Such premises, however, would have to be erected at the cost of the local authority. There are, without question, two suitable premises existing in the district, either of which could be used for centralised slaughter to serve the needs of the whole of the Urban Area. So far as new premises are concerned a suitable site on level ground immediately adjacent to the railway goods siding is also available, but the cost of the erection of satisfactory new premises at this time would be prohibitive, nor, it is felt, would the maintenance and operation of a public slaughter house be an economic proposition. The proposal was therefore deferred. At the same time the Council raised the question of the unsatisfactory method employed in the transport of meat. This matter has been raised from time to time, and as a result of

complaints put forward by the Council the vehicle employed on wholesale meat distribution was substituted by a modern vehicle which was equipped with an insulated container providing complete protection for the meat. The vehicle employed on distribution to the shops, however, was an adapted motor lorry with canvas cover, which was, without doubt, on occasion used for purposes other than carrying meat. Meat was generally stacked on the floor of the lorry and owing to its construction it was necessary for the driver and his assistant to climb in and walk on the floor to unload. As a result of the Council's complaints a modern vehicle with insulated container was put into service for the area, and conditions have much improved. Whilst centralised slaughtering has some advantages, the meat sent into the district does not compare favourably with that put out by the private butcher in pre-war days. The hasty removal of cattle from farm to market, and thence to slaughter houses, followed by slaughter without preliminary resting and hungering, is not conducive to good quality meat, and there is no doubt that hasty and inefficient dressing of carcasses, particularly of lambs and sheep, cause much wastage, and bone taint in beef is far too prevalent. A further point for consideration is also that few young men in butchers shops, nowadays, receive proper training in their trade owing to lack of opportunity for training in the slaughter house, and the suggestion was put forward by the Council that a rota should be established to give all butchers' assistants the opportunity for training, but this suggestion came to nothing.

The carcasses of the following food animals were examined during the year and found to be sound, namely:—

98 pigs.

All food shops are inspected regularly and it was found necessary in the course of routine inspections to deal with a large quantity of varied tinned stuffs. The amount of tinned food coming into the shops increased slightly during the year under review, and generally speaking, an improvement was observed in packing, and a smaller quantity was lost due to damage in transit. It was, however, necessary to condemn as unfit for human consumption a large quantity of tinned food stuffs, bacon, butter and other perishable commodities, every effort being made to prevent waste.

Particulars of the foodstuffs condemned are as follows:—

13 ducks, 18 lbs. English beef, 38½ lbs. English mutton, 190 lbs. beef and mutton, 70 lbs. pork, 68-12 oz. tins veal loaf, 6-12 oz. tins corned beef, 24-12 oz. tins minced beef loaf, 9-16 oz. tins stewed steak, 26 lbs. luncheon sausage, 17-1 lb. tins pork brawn, 13-1 lb. 3 oz. tins pork brawn, 5-2 lb. tins pork brawn, 7-2½ lb. tins pork brawn, 24-4 lb. tins port brawn, 2-1 lb. tins Danish pork, 27-1 lb. 13 oz. tins pork, 12-12oz. tins meat lunch, 152 pork pies, 60 lbs. beef sausage, 8 lbs. sausage meat, 24 lbs. white pudding, 18 lbs. black pudding, 10 lbs. red poloney, 9 lbs. luncheon poloney, 4 oxtails, 27-16 oz. tins scotch broth, 194½ lbs. bacon, 2-3¾ oz. tins crab paste, 7-A1 tall tins marinated mussels, 1-12 oz. tin mussels, 11-3½ oz. tins salmon, 3-1 lb. tins salmon 11-½ lb. tins Grade 2 salmon, 7-3¾ oz. tins Danish brisling, 24-8 oz. tins crayfish, 72 fishcakes, 2 lbs. dried apricots, 5-16 oz. tins apricots, 2-1 lb. 14 oz. tins apricots, 3-2½ lbs. tins apricots, 25-1 lb. 13 oz. tins peaches, 3-1 lb. 4 oz. tins cherries, 9-1 lb. 4 oz. tins gooseberries, 9-1 lb. 11 oz. tins grapefruit, 56 lbs. Jaffa oranges, 15-16 oz. tins quartered apple, 1-4½ oz. tin strained apple, 2-30 oz. tins plums, 9-15 oz. tins tomatoes, 3-26 oz. jars tomatoes, 26-27 oz. tins

tomatoes, 22-2 lb. 4 oz. tins tomatoes 15-3 lbs. tins tomatoes, 7-10½ oz. tins mixed vegetables, 2-16 oz. tins mixed vegetables, 9-1 lb. 3 oz. tins mixed vegetables, 3-14 oz. tins beans, 25-16 oz. tins baked beans, 7-A1 tall tins baked beans, 26-16 oz. tins peas, 67-1 lb. 3 oz. tins peas, 15-1 lb. 13 oz. tins peas, 3-28 oz. tins garden peas, 15-16 oz. tins pease pudding, 4-A1 tall tins spaghetti in tomato, 9-1 lb. tins beetroot, 1-1 lb. 13 oz. tin beetroot, 15-6¾ oz. bottles salad cream, 66-3¾ oz. jars sandwich spread, 11-13 oz. tins evaporated milk, 139-14½ oz. tins evaporated milk, 75-1¾ pint tins evaporated milk, 66-2 pint size tins evaporated milk, 20-1¾ pint size tins skimmed milk, 32-5 oz. tins dried eggs, 18 lbs. Danish butter, 28 lbs. margarine, 28½ lbs. semolina, 3-2 lb. tins jam, 384 lbs. flour, 25 malt loaves, 129 lbs. sugar.

Milk and Dairies.

The year under review was noteworthy in as much as in October, the Department ceased to supervise the milk producers and farms, this work passing to the Ministry of Agriculture. Prior to this all cow sheds and dairies were subject to inspection at frequent intervals and periodical samples of milk were taken from producers and roundsmen of the Milk Pool and submitted for bacteriological examination. Ninety-three samples were taken in this way, the results being generally highly satisfactory, and indicating that the majority of the farmers in the district are capable of consistently producing milk to the accredited standard. The number of milk producers on the Register was 12.

The distribution of milk in the district was in the hands of the Houghton Dairymen's Association and the South East Durham Co-operative Dairies, and these two organisations were the only retailers in the area. They dealt mainly in pasteurised milk, although a small quantity of tuberculin tested milk was also supplied.

The farmers in the district have, during recent years, displayed an increasing interest in milk production, and most of the producers are consistently increasing the size and quality of their herds. Owing to labour difficulties an increasing number also make use of modern milking machines, and whilst this may be considered a step forward one has noted that milking machines, if not regularly and efficiently sterilised, are a persistent cause of contamination to milk, and also to some extent a source of the transmission of udder trouble from cow to cow. Unfortunately the rubber parts do not stand up to sterilization very well and the temptation to take short cuts and save time often gives rise to very unsatisfactory conditions in the milking machines.

Most of the local milk goes to the Dairymen's Association who operate a modern processing plant at Houghton-le-Spring where the milk is pasteurised, bottled, and stored under ideal conditions. The South East Durham Co-operative Dairies have a modern milk depot with cold storage chambers at Hetton Downs, where bottled milk is stored overnight before delivery. There is also a small secondary depot at Easington Lane, this is not equipped with cold storage but is reasonably satisfactory. All milk retailed in the district during the year was delivered in bottles, and although occasional complaints regarding dirty bottles were investigated the position was generally satisfactory.

Milk samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle where they are examined free of charge. These samples are taken for purely advisory purposes and no prosecutions

were undertaken with regard to the results, in fact none were necessary. Occasional sub-standard results do arise, probably due to atmospheric conditions, or carelessness on the part of the operatives, and when any adverse result was reported the matter was investigated with a view to ascertaining the cause of the trouble, this being followed up with further samples to check results.

Ice Cream.

There are only three manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban District, two of these being at Easington Lane and one at East Rainton. All three complied with the Heat Treatment Regulations and work under hygienic conditions with modern plant. They are regularly sampled and the results obtained have been consistently satisfactory and generally classified in the higher grades. Nowadays a very large number of confectioners and general shops have installed cabinets for the storage of pre-packed or bulk ice cream, and these are all registered as retailers. No trouble has been experienced with the ice cream they sell, although, of course, the Department have no knowledge of the method of manufacture, and sampling is difficult to undertake. A similar difficulty is experienced with the vendors of ice cream who patrol the area in motor vans. It is virtually impossible to obtain samples of the ice cream they are selling, and apart from the health aspect these vendors do not add to the amenities of the district, as they persistently sound motor horns, whistles, etc., in residential areas which is highly undesirable in a district where a large proportion of the community is employed in the mines, and have of necessity to take their rest during the day.

Factories and Workshops.

These premises are regularly inspected with a view to ensuring that they comply with the main Act and various Orders made thereunder. In some cases it was necessary to require additional attention to the cleansing, lime washing, and ventilation facilities, or the drainage of floors, and in six cases owners were asked to improve the closet accommodation where this was insufficient or not adequately separated for the sexes. The following tables give particulars of inspections carried out by the Department under the Acts, and the results thereof.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecuted Occupiers
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	33	11	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	31	35	7	...
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	5	5	5	...
Total	53	73	23	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	10	10	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	1	1	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	2	2	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors(S6)	4	4	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	3	3	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	23	23	...	...

Bakehouses.

At the end of 1949 there were only seven retail bakehouses established in the Urban Area. Very little bread is baked in the district nowadays, the majority of retailers being supplied by factory bakehouses operating outside the area. Work in the local bakehouses is almost entirely confined to the baking of cakes. The premises were periodically inspected and it may safely be said that a generally satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin.

During 1949 it was necessary to take action for the eradication of bed bugs and other vermin in the undermentioned premises.

(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	45
(b) Private Houses	...	...	...	15

It is generally found that infestation with vermin is becoming increasingly rare and when complaints are received it is almost always with regard to beetles, the premises invariably being old houses which have been treated before but which require periodical re-treatment, as when the pest becomes established, complete clearance is uncommon, and re-infestation occurs with seasonal changes. Unfortunately it is found that a good number of the older type of Council house are a source of trouble, largely owing to faults in construction. Beetles were successfully dealt with by treatment with a powder which contained pyrethrum for immediate effect and D.D.T. to provide a latent effect.

Where infestation was by bed bugs, it was dealt with by spraying with an approved insecticide, the premises affected being treated on three occasions, firstly by fumigation to eliminate as far as possible surface vermin, this making the premises reasonably safe for householders or workmen to proceed with stripping the walls of paper (in one or two cases it was also necessary to remove skirtings, architraves, picture rails, etc.), the second treatment was given to kill vermin which had subsequently incubated, and a final treatment to ensure complete eradication. After this course of treatment, which is generally spread over three weeks, householders are asked to keep constant observation and make every effort to prevent re-infestation, and there is no certainty that the premises are cleared, especially when operations are carried out in cold weather when the pests are dormant and lodged deep in crevices in the walls.

Rodent Control.

During the year under review the Health Department dealt with the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Order, so far as surface infestations (i.e. dwelling houses, business premises and refuse tips) were concerned, the Highway Department dealing with the treatment of sewers. 64 complaints of rat and mice infestation were investigated and dealt with, in some cases extensive work had to be carried out in this direction. No charge is made to householders for treatment carried out, but where work is executed at business premises a charge is made. A large part of the cost of the scheme was recovered by Government grant, this being made with the approval of the Ministry of Food. The Council's own property, refuse tips, etc., were systematically treated when necessary, the cost of this work falling upon the local authority. Whilst infestation is not so common nowadays, which is to be expected having regard to the systematic control work which has been done in the past few years, yet one is surprised from time to time at the surface infestations which do arise.

The poisons generally in use are zinc phosphide, arsenic, and red squills, the latter, whilst not so effective or consistent in use, is utilised where live stock is kept, as should this poison be accidentally taken by animals, no lasting harmful effect should result. The Council is covered by insurance against any claims for accidents and the Company concerned very thoroughly investigated the method used before undertaking the risk. This policy has now been in existence for some years, but as yet no claim has had to be met.

Where mice are concerned it is frequently necessary to resort to trapping, and very good results have been obtained by the use of sticky bait for this purpose. When weather conditions, and the site made it possible, particularly on refuse tips, gassing was carried out with Cymag gas and this method proved very effective.

Colliery Spoil Heaps.

Considerable time has been devoted to the inspection of Colliery spoil heaps in the district during the past few years. As whilst during the war blackout precautions caused the Colliery Companies to take steps to keep the fires on the heaps within control, since the cessation of hostilities heaps have given rise to considerable nuisance, and the fumes emanated, apart from affecting public health, do much damage to property, paintwork being spoilt and zinc used in constructional work becoming corroded.

The Department is very much indebted to Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Health, for the very kind assistance and the useful technical advice which he has given with regard to this problem, as he makes regular routine inspections of the heaps in company with the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

There are three active pit heaps in the Urban Area these being situated at Eppleton Colliery, Elemore Colliery and at Nicholson's pit, East Rainton. The heap at Eppleton has been kept fairly well under control by the application of water, but this heap over the years has so increased in size that it now encroaches on dwelling houses in the Hetton Downs Ward. The attention of the National Coal Board was drawn to this position some time ago and they put forward proposals for extending the heap by an overhead rope-way on to waste land to the south of the existing heap. This method of disposal should give rise to little nuisance as the Colliery waste will be spread in shallow layers which should make the control of fire a comparatively simple matter. The proposals have been approved by the Council, and the Town Planning Authority, but the installation of the necessary overhead gear will take some time, and as a temporary measure it has been arranged for side tipping to be carried out at the Colliery end of the heap. The heap at Elemore Colliery gives rise to some nuisance and the Department have had difficulty in obtaining a full and proper application of the methods installed for controlling the fire here. The National Coal Board were approached and asked to provide a better supply of water for the spray and this was done, but from observations made on periodical visits it is doubtful whether the spraying apparatus is used as much as it should be. The heap at Nicholson's pit was used in connection with the by-product works which was established on this site during the war. This works is now closed down and since the closure it was found that less control was exercised over the heap, which is now being used for waste from Collieries outside the Urban area. The matter was taken up with the National Coal Board and better control is now exercised as there is adequate supply of water and an efficient pumping installation here.

